

### **A word from Jean-Paul Deprins, CEO**

Forestry is often underestimated, seen as slow and rustic. However, it's a complex and specialized field that requires technical mastery, resilience, deep connection to the land and people. Every day in the field is an adventure, driven by dedicated project managers and teams who make forestry work.

At BGF, we are proud to operate in EA where forestry is not just seen as a national resource, but as a business opportunity, a climate solution, and a pathway to shared prosperity. Through our expertise and our engagement in national dialogues on forest monitoring, we are committed to making forestry a game changer.

Enjoy this edition of our newsletter, it's a tribute to the work, the people, and the purpose that drive us forward.

### **Boots on the Ground: BGF's Expertise in Action**

At Better Globe Forestry (BGF), tree planting isn't just about digging holes, it's a full-time, all-season operation led by skilled and dedicated teams on the ground in Kenya and Uganda. Whether in our plantations or on partner farmers' fields, every tree standing results from meticulous planning, technical know-how, community collaboration, and consistent follow-up. Leading our field operations are highly trained Project Managers (PMs), who serve as the crucial link between our head office and field activities.

They ensure seamless coordination, timely reporting, and the integration of technical, social, and logistical components across all sites. They oversee the entire lifecycle of tree management, from fruit collection, nursery operations, to establishment, maintenance, protection and round-the-clock site security. These efforts involve rigorous preliminary preparation activities that involve community engagement, land use management planning, and mobilisation of resources, all in line with sustainable forestry standards (FSC).

*BGF Kiambere site plantation, photos by BGF*



*BGF Nyongoro site, photo by BGF*



### **Farming Partnerships that Work**

In farmers' fields, the focus shifts to tree planting partnerships within an agroforestry setup and education. Our specialised extension agents recruit, train, and support thousands of smallholder farmers, ensuring that tree planting practices align with our tailored dryland agroforestry approaches. Each partnership is governed by clear and inclusive contracts, which are thoroughly explained and aligned with FSC requirements.

In Kenya, the farmers' programme PMs also lead the Green Initiative Challenge (GIC) in collaboration with Kengen Foundation and a team of Training and Implementation

Monitoring agents, engaging 100 schools annually, in planting 300 trees each. Through close collaboration with teachers and students, the programme fosters environmental stewardship and builds practical forestry knowledge among young learners.

**Innovation Meets Experience** To complement our on-the-ground expertise, BGF is adopting cutting-edge tools such as drone surveys, GIS mapping, and mobile apps to streamline tree monitoring and data collection. This blend of practical fieldwork, community engagement, and technological innovation positions BGF as a frontrunner in sustainable dryland forestry.

*7F PM with FSC addressing farmers. BGF partner farmers training on pruning.*



*GIC school with thriving Mukau trees*



*BGF Dokolo farm visit (photos by BGF)*





## BGF Contributes to National Forest Monitoring Dialogue

During the 20th and 21st of May, Better Globe Forestry (BGF) was proud to participate in a high-level stakeholder workshop centred on advancing Kenya's forest monitoring systems and shaping the country's eligibility for carbon credit claims under the global REDD+ framework. At the heart of the discussions was Kenya's readiness to claim carbon credit payments through REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). This initiative not only aims to curb emissions but also incentivises forest conservation, sustainable management, and carbon stock enhancement, the "+" in REDD+.

*The workshop in full swing. Photo BGF.*



Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the workshop brought together key players in Kenya's forestry sector to assess progress in forest data collection and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR). The event was supported by the UK-funded AIM4Forests programme (Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests), which promotes the use of cutting-edge technologies such as satellite imagery, space data, and remote sensing to enhance forest tracking.

*Active workshop moments (photos FAO)*



The workshop delved into Kenya's forest classification and mapping, relying on data from the IMPRESS project (Improving Measurement for Payments to Reduce Emissions and Strengthen Sinks), which determined that in 2021, Kenya's forest cover stood at 3.72 million hectares, approximately 6.3% of the country's total area. Using the FAO definition of forest (minimum 15% canopy cover, over 0.5 hectares, and trees at least 2 meters tall), national experts mapped 25 distinct forest land classes using Landsat satellite data, complemented by extensive groundwork by KFS teams.

A major focus was validating the methodologies used and understanding the technical requirements for accessing carbon markets. Presentations covered global mechanisms such as the LEAF Coalition (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest

Finance), the UN's Green Climate Fund (GCF), and voluntary carbon standards like Verra and the Gold Standard. Participants also noted the persistently low carbon prices, currently under USD 5 per tonne, and the implications for forest-based financing. One standout component of AIM4Forests is **AIM4Commodities**, which addresses the European Union Deforestation Regulation.

This regulation mandates that exporters of commodities such as coffee must demonstrate that their products are not sourced from deforested land after 2020, which is a critical requirement for Kenya, a country that exports over 17,500 metric tonnes of coffee annually to the EU. The need for credible land-use monitoring is essential for protecting livelihoods and maintaining access to global markets.

Group photo of participants at the REDD+ & Restoration Workshop under the AIM4Forests programme (photo FAO).



BGF was represented at the workshop by our Senior Director of Forestry, reaffirming our commitment to supporting national and global efforts in forest conservation, climate action, and sustainable development. As Kenya builds its National Forest Monitoring System into a permanent institution, BGF remains a dedicated partner in achieving long-term environmental and economic resilience.

